CLAIMS

1. A process for increasing the optical purity of a mixture of enantiomers of nefopam by using a substantially single enantiomer of a *O,O*-diaroyltartaric acid as a resolving agent, via a bisnefopam salt of the acid.

2. A process according to claim 1, for preparing a substantially single enantiomer of nefopam by means of resolution of racemic nefopam.

3. A process according to claim 1 or claim 2, for preparing a substantially single enantiomer of nefopam, which comprises reverse resolution of racemic nefopam or nefopam analogue, using sequentially a single enantiomer of a *O,O*-dibenzoyltartaric acid and then the other enantiomer.

4. A process according to any of claims 1 to 3, for preparing substantially single enantiomer (+)-nefopam, which uses *O,O*-dibenzoyl-L-tartaric acid as the resolving agent.

5. A process according to any of claims 1 to 3, for preparing substantially single enantiomer (-)-nefopam, which uses *O,O*-dibenzoyl-D-tartaric acid as the resolving agent.

6. A process according to any preceding claim, which is conducted in a solvent selected from alcohols, esters, ketones and halogenated solvents.

7. A process according to any preceding claim, which comprises the further step of conversion of the salt obtained by the resolution to the free base form of nefopam or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. A process according to any of claims 1 to 7, wherein the amount of the resolving agent is less than 1 equivalent.

9. A process according to claim 8, wherein said amount is no more than 0.5 equivalent.

10. A bisnefopam salt of a substantially single enantiomer of a *O,O*-diaroyltartaric acid.

11. A salt according to claim 10, wherein the acid is *O,O*-dibenzoyltartaric acid.